

**Amendments to the claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the detection of [[an]] hepatitis B surface antigen, the antigen being in a combination with aluminium hydroxide, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) contacting the antigen with an immunoglobulin[[.]] or fragment thereof capable of specific binding to the antigen, in the context of a solid support and in the presence of a basic buffer, wherein the antigen or the immunoglobulin is bound to a solid support, to allow binding of the antigen to the immunoglobulin or fragment thereof;
- (ii) adding a blocking agent; and
- (iii) detecting the binding of antigen to immunoglobulin, wherein steps i, ii, and iii are carried out sequentially but not necessarily consecutively.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (i) is carried out with agitation.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detection step (iii) is carried out in the presence of 0.2 % bovine serum albumen (BSA).

5. (Currently amended) A method for the detection of an antigen, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) contacting an immunoglobulin specific for hepatitis B surface antigen with a test sample, the immunoglobulin being bound to a solid support, the contacting being carried out in the presence of a basic buffer, with agitation, to allow binding of the antigen to the immunoglobulin, wherein the basic buffer is between pH 8 and pH 10 about pH 9;

- (ii) adding a blocking agent comprising about 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA); and
- (iii) detecting the binding of antigen to immunoglobulin in the presence of 0.2% BSA.

6.-9. (Cancelled)